



Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) 2001/2003 Comparisons

Public school students in grades 6 through 12 were asked about tobacco use, availability of tobacco products, environmental tobacco smoke, tobacco prevention education, tobacco advertisements, and depictions of tobacco in media. The same methodologies were used and the CDC pulled samples for both years. The 2001 survey was administered by the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), and the 2003 survey was administered by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Both sets of data were weighted and analyzed by VCU. The confidence interval for each question varies, however the average is +/- 2.69%.

2001 FINDINGS	2003 FINDINGS	
Twenty-nine percent of high school students and eleven percent of middle school students report that they currently smoke cigarettes. Being a current smoker is defined as smoking on one or more days in the past month.	Twenty-one percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students report that they currently smoke cigarettes. Being a current smoker is defined as smoking on one or more days in the past month.	28% HS decrease 45% MS decrease
Twenty-eight percent of female high school students, and twenty-nine percent of male high school students report they currently smoke cigarettes. Eleven percent of females and ten percent of males in middle school report that they currently smoke cigarettes. Being a current smoker is defined as smoking on one or more days in the past month.	Nineteen percent of female high school students, and twenty-two percent of male high school students report they currently smoke cigarettes. Six percent of females and six percent of males in middle school report that they currently smoke cigarettes. Being a current smoker is defined as smoking on one or more days in the past month.	32% decrease HS females 24% decrease HS males 45% decrease MS females 40% decrease MS males
Thirty-six percent of high school students and seventeen percent of middle school students reported that they currently use a tobacco product. Males at both levels were more likely than females to currently use a tobacco product.	Twenty-seven percent of high school students and ten percent of middle school students reported that they currently use a tobacco product. Males at both levels were more likely than females to currently use a tobacco product.	25% HS decrease 41% MS decrease 30% overall decrease
High school students (20%) were more likely than middle school students (6%) to report that they smoked cigarettes daily. Fourteen percent of high school students reported being frequent smokers, having smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days.	High school students (17%) were more likely than middle school students (4%) to report that they had ever smoked cigarettes daily. Nine percent of high school students reported currently being frequent smokers, having smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days.	36% HS decrease of frequent smoker
Sixty-two percent of Virginia's high school students and thirty-four percent of middle school students reported having tried cigarettes.	Fifty percent of Virginia's high school students and twenty percent of middle school students reported having tried cigarettes.	19% HS decrease 41% MS decrease
Male middle school students were more likely to have tried cigarettes (36%) than their female counterparts (32%). The percentage of high school males (65%) who report having tried cigarettes was also larger than that of high school females (60%).	Male middle school students were more likely to have tried cigarettes (22%) than their female counterparts (17%). The percentage of high school males (51%) and females (49%) who report having tried cigarettes was about the same.	39% MMS decrease 47% FMS decrease 22% MHS decrease 18% FHS decrease

Males in both high school and middle school were more likely than females to have tried chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, cigars, cigarillos, little cigars, bidis, and kreteks	Males in both high school and middle school were more likely than females to have tried chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, bidis, and kreteks.	
Male high school (32%) and middle school (18%) students were more likely to have ever used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip than female high school (9%) and middle school (6%) students.	Male high school (17%) and middle school (11%) students were more likely to have ever used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip than female high school (8%) and middle school (4%) students.	47% MHS decrease 39% MMS decrease
Twelve percent of high school students were established smokers, having smoked over 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and on 20 or more of the past 30 days. About two percent of middle school students were established smokers.	Eight percent of high school students were established smokers, having smoked over 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and on 20 or more of the past 30 days. About one percent (.9) of middle school students were noted as established smokers.	
Students who have tried smoking cigarettes, but have smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, were considered experimenters. Forty percent of high school students and twenty-six percent of middle school students were experimenters.	Students who have tried smoking cigarettes, but have smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, were considered experimenters. Thirty-two percent of high school students and fifteen percent of middle school students were experimenters.	20% HS decrease 42% MS decrease
Forty-seven percent of high school students and thirty percent of middle school students were at high risk for becoming established smokers (either experimenters or non-daily current smokers). A somewhat higher percent of middle school males (32%) were at high risk for becoming established smokers than middle school females (29%). The same held true with high school males (48%) and females (46%).	Forty-one percent of high school students and eighteen percent of middle school students were at high risk for becoming established smokers (either experimenters or non-daily current smokers). A somewhat higher percent of males were at high risk for becoming established smokers than females, but the difference was not great. Middle school males (19%) vs. middle school females (16%), and for high school students (42% males vs. 40% females).	
Virginia students reported getting cigarettes in a variety of ways. Twenty-six percent of students report that they “gave someone else money to buy them for me.” The same percentage reported that they “borrowed or bummed them from someone else.”	Virginia students reported getting cigarettes in a variety of ways. Twenty-three percent of students report that they “borrowed or bummed them from someone else.” Slightly fewer noted that they “gave someone else money to buy them for me.”	
Sixteen percent (6% of middle school and 20 % of high school students) reported buying cigarettes in a store. Sixty-nine percent of middle school students and sixty-one percent of high school students who bought cigarettes in a store were not asked to show proof of age.	Seventeen percent (9% of middle school and 19.5% of high school students) of the students who smoked cigarettes in the past month reported buying them in a store. Of the students who bought cigarettes in a store, sixty-eight percent of middle school students and fifty percent of the high school students were not asked to show proof of age.	
Forty-six percent of students lived with someone who smokes cigarettes. Sixty-eight percent were exposed to second-hand smoke in a car or room during the past week.	Thirty-seven percent of students lived with someone who smokes cigarettes. Fifty-eight percent were exposed to second-hand smoke in a car or room during the past week. There was a steady increase as the youth aged, with less than half (46%) of the 6 th graders reporting being exposed to second-hand smoke, as compared to 72% of the 12 th graders.	

Ninety percent of high school students and eighty-eight percent of middle school students believed that smoke from other people's cigarettes was "probably" or "definitely" harmful to them.	Ninety-two percent of students believed that smoke from other people's cigarettes was "probably" or "definitely" harmful to them. There was not much variance in the responses of middle and high school students.	
Seventy-seven percent of students had seen or heard one or more commercials on TV, the internet, or on radio in the past 30 days about the dangers of cigarette smoking.	Eighty-five percent of students had seen or heard one or more commercials on TV, the internet, or on radio in the past 30 days about the dangers of cigarette smoking.	
During the past 12 months, 22% of students bought or received something that had a tobacco company name on it. Thirty-one percent said they would definitely or probably wear something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it (e.g., lighter, t-shirt, hat, sunglasses). Eighty-three percent of students reported seeing tobacco use in movies some or most of the time.	During the past 12 months, 15% of students bought or received something that had a tobacco company name on it. Forty-six percent said that they would definitely not use or wear something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it (e.g., lighter, t-shirt, hat, sunglasses).	
Male high school students had more positive images of smoking than females. They were more likely than females (14%, compared to 6%) to believe that people could "probably not" or "definitely not" get addicted to tobacco. High school male students (7%) were more likely than females (3%) to think smoking cigarettes "definitely" makes young people look cool or fit in.	Male high school students had more positive images of smoking than females. They were more likely than females (13%, compared to 7%) to believe that people could "probably not" or "definitely not" get addicted to tobacco. High school male students (9%) were more likely than females (3%) to think smoking cigarettes "definitely" makes young people look cool or fit in.	
Seventy-nine percent of high school males and 88% of high school females "probably" and "definitely" do not feel that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two.	Eighty percent of high school males and 91% of high school females "probably" and "definitely" do not feel that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two.	
Twenty-eight percent of high school students and twenty-five percent of middle school students initiated tobacco use before the age of thirteen. Male students were more likely than female students to do this.	Twenty-one percent of high school students and seventeen percent of middle school students initiated tobacco use before the age of thirteen. Male students were more likely than female students to try tobacco before the age of thirteen.	
In looking at differences based on race, white students are more likely to be established smokers than black or Hispanic students; however Hispanic students (51%) were at the highest risk of becoming an established smoker.	In looking at differences based on race, white students are more likely to be established smokers than black or Hispanic students; however Hispanic students (44.5%) were at the highest risk of becoming an established smoker.	